



Press Release

March 15, 2006
For Immediate Release

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North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Moves One Step Closer to Receiving Grant Funding

The North Coast is one step closer to receiving significant grant funding for the implementation of projects that will enhance beneficial uses of water, salmonid recovery and intra-regional cooperation. The North Coast Regional Water Management Group, a consortium of cities, counties, tribes, non-governmental organizations, watershed groups and interested stakeholders from seven counties (Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino and Sonoma) was notified by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) that its Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) proposal will proceed to step two of DWR's grant approval process.

"Moving into step two of the grant approval process demonstrates the hard work, dedication and collaboration of all members of the North Coast Regional Water Management Group," said Sonoma County Supervisor and Chairman Paul Kelley.

Of the fifty proposals received statewide the North Coast application ranked second. The North Coast IRWMP is eligible for a maximum of \$25 million in grant funding through Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water and Beach Protection Act of 2002.

In May 2005, the County of Humboldt submitted a planning grant application on behalf of the North Coast Region to enhance Phase I of the North Coast IRWMP. The North Coast IRWM application received funding at the requested levels, bringing more than \$1.7 million in water management planning dollars to the North Coast Region.

"The grant program is intended to encourage integrated regional strategies for management of water resources and to provide funding for water supply reliability, clean water and water recycling, environmental restoration and fisheries and watershed protection and planning projects," said Humboldt County Supervisor and Chair of the North Coast IRWMP Policy Review Panel Jimmy Smith.

"Implementation of the North Coast IRWMP will have multiple benefits to the regional environment, including enhancements to water quality, water supply, and environmental equity," said Rohnert Park City Councilmember and Vice Chair of the North Coast IRWMP Policy Review Panel Jake Mackenzie.

For more information regarding the North Coast's integrated regional water management planning effort visit www.northcoastirwmp.net.